

# Editorial



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Welcome to the second issue for 2008 of the Australasian Journal of Construction Economics and Building. The variety of papers this issue reflect the diverse range of problems and challenges facing the construction industry including payment mechanisms; cooperation, value and trust; quality management systems, a standard method of measurement for building works in Ghana; Evaluating truck empty running and individual learning.

The first paper from UK by Ibrahim Motawa and Ammar Kaka explores payment mechanisms for integrated teams in construction. The writers introduce a methodology to simulate the profiles of alternative payment mechanisms. The outcome is focussed on helping project teams define the most appropriate mechanism for each member. They indicate that the model they have designed is superior to currently available cash flow models and will enable complex cash flows to be managed more fairly and successfully.

Jan Sundqvist provides a second paper in this journal for our readership. Jan investigates what he refers to as innovative companies, particularly focussing on cooperation and partner choice.

S. Thomas Ng, Ekambaram Palaneeswaran and Mohan Kumaraswamy collaborate to produce a paper associated with quality management systems and ISO9000; discussing the costs and benefits associated with improvements in product quality and achievement of desired objectives of client's and their satisfaction. They found that contractors could benefit from using ISO9000-based QMS in both a tangible and intangible way.

Gabriel Nani, Peter J. Edwards, Theophilus Adjei-Kumi, Edward Badu and Peter Amoah provide an insight into the Standard Method of Measurement (SMM5) of building works in Ghana. They record a number of modifications and their impact on a desirable outcome in terms of information and use. They note that the relevance of certain characteristics vary from one region to another as a result of technological, cultural and legal differences.

Winston M. Shakantu, Mundia Muya, John E. Tookey, and Paul A. Bowen evaluate truck empty running in South African construction considering efficiency and logistical challenges. They highlight the potential for reducing empty running by construction trucks through back-loading waste to points of disposal, reuse, recycling or reclamation using a reverse logistics concept.

Finally, Ingeborg Wasif, Per-Erik Josephson and Alexander Styhre indicate that personal networks are the most common source of learning for all professions. They interviewed 28 individuals in 6 Swedish construction projects leading to a conclusion that suggests attempts to increase learning have to address the differences in learning behaviours of various groups. Through experimenting and organizing for learning it is possible to change the learning behaviour from learning as a consequence of problems to learning for future improvement.